

Remarks at a California Democratic Party and Coordinated Campaign Reception in Los Angeles, California
November 2, 2000

That's the shortest speech by a politician on record. [*Laughter*] Thank you, and thank you, Governor. I'm looking forward to this little meeting today, but I want to thank you for the work you're doing for the Coordinated Campaign. I'm delighted to be here. We've got five congressional seats here we've got to try to win. And we've got to reelect Senator Feinstein and carry California for Al Gore and Joe Lieberman. So we know what we have to do.

And I can tell you, I've been around the country now—I've done like 160 events, maybe more, this year. I just got back from Louisville. If people understand what the issues are and what the differences are and what the consequences are, we'll win. This is not complicated. So I hope I can help you in the next 2 days.

The only other thing I would say is, all the surveys show that basically this election could turn on whether our voters want to go vote as much as their voters do. And what motivates them is knowing what's at stake. So I'll do what I can to help you do that, and then when I leave, I know you'll bring them to victory.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:35 p.m. in the atrium at the Regency Club. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Gray Davis of California. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at a Get Out the Vote Rally in Los Angeles
November 2, 2000

The President. Thank you. Whoa. Are you ready to win this election? I want to thank all of you for coming out, for your enthusiasm and your support. I want to thank my good friend Kenny Edmonds. He writes a good song, and he makes a good introduction, I think. [*Laughter*]

Thank you, Governor Gray Davis, for your leadership and your friendship. Thank you,

Lieutenant Governor Cruz Bustamante. Thank you, Art Torres. Thank you, Representative Hilda Solis. And to the other officials who are here, Genethia Hayes, Assemblyman Herb Wesson, Senator Kevin Murray, Councilman Mark Ridley-Thomas, and Art Pulaski of the Federation of Labor. And I'd also like to thank your speaker, Bob Hertzberg, and the folks that performed and sang before me here. Thank you, Holly Robinson Peete; thank you, Wyclef Jean. And my good friend Camryn Manheim, not on stage but interpreting me. Isn't she great?

Now, look, I've got to say a few things—can you hear me?

Audience members. Yes!

The President. And you have to indulge me, because I know that I'm sort of preaching to the saved here today. And the temptation, therefore, is just to say things that make us all shout and have a good time.

But look, this is a close election, and there are, in addition to the Presidency, races for United States Senate, Senator Dianne Feinstein, and we have five—count 'em—five House seats that the Democrats could win in the State of California alone, on our way to recovering the majority.

So I want you all just to let me talk just a few minutes—not too loud—and tell you what I hope you will say to everybody who is not here, because every one of you have a lot of friends who have never been to anything like this. Is that right? They never came to hear the President give a speech or the Governor or one of these political deals. But they all vote, or they could vote if they knew why they were voting. Is that right?

Audience members. Yes!

The President. So here is what I want to tell you. Number one, thank you, thank you, thank you for the support that California, Los Angeles, and Watts have given to me and Al Gore these last 8 years.

You know, one of the things that I worry about in this election is that there are a lot of young people of voting age who can't even remember what it was like back in 1992. The economy was in trouble; the society was divided; there were riots in Los Angeles. The political system in Washington was pure tone-deaf to you across the country in California.